

AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS
ON
MARITIME SEARCH AND RESCUE

The Government of the United States of America and the
Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
(hereinafter referred to as "the Parties"),

Being Parties to the International Convention on Maritime
Search and Rescue, 1979 (hereinafter referred to as "the
Convention"),

Recognizing the great importance of cooperation in maritime
search and rescue and the provision of expeditious and
effective search and rescue services,

Have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

1. Search and rescue regions of the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics shall be separated by the maritime boundary between the two countries.

2. The establishment of search and rescue regions is intended only to effect an understanding concerning the regions within which each Party accepts primary responsibility for coordinating maritime search and rescue operations.

ARTICLE II

Each Party, on receiving information of any person in distress at sea within its search and rescue region as provided in Paragraph 1 of Article I, shall take urgent measures to provide the most appropriate assistance available regardless of the nationality or status of such a person or the circumstances in which that person is found.

ARTICLE III

1. In conducting search and rescue operations, including the urgent measures referred to in Article II, the Parties shall cooperate and coordinate their operations as appropriate.

2. Search and rescue operations on or over the territorial seas, internal waters, and land of either Party shall be conducted, as a rule, by the rescue units of that Party.

3. Search and rescue operations on or over the territorial seas, internal waters, and land of either Party shall be conducted in accordance with applicable laws and regulations of that Party established in conformity with the Convention.

4. To facilitate the coordination referred to in this Article, the Parties shall keep each other fully and promptly apprised of all relevant search and rescue operations and shall, as appropriate, use search and rescue procedures and means of communication as agreed by the Parties.

5. Specific information to facilitate implementation for this Agreement may be provided for in a separate instrument developed by maritime search and rescue authorities designated by the Parties.

ARTICLE IV

1. The Parties shall report to each other on maritime search and rescue cases of mutual interest when necessary or appropriate.

2. The Parties shall endeavor to exchange information, in addition to that related to specific search and rescue cases, that may serve to improve the effectiveness of maritime search and rescue operations.

ARTICLE V

The Parties, to promote mutual cooperation in the field of maritime search and rescue, will give favorable consideration to various collaborative efforts including:

- (a) Mutual visits between search and rescue managers and rescue coordination center personnel,
- (b) Conduct of joint exercises or search and rescue operations,
- (c) Regular checks of communication channels,
- (d) Development of search and rescue procedures, techniques, equipment, and facilities, and
- (e) Provision of services in support of search and rescue operations such as use of fueling or medical facilities.

ARTICLE VI

1. Nothing in this Agreement shall affect in any way the rights and obligations of either Party resulting from other bilateral and multilateral international agreements.

2. The Parties will implement this Agreement in accordance with rules and principles of general international law and their respective laws and regulations.

ARTICLE VII

Unless otherwise agreed by the Parties, each Party will fund its own expenses for activities pertinent to this Agreement.

ARTICLE VIII

1. This Agreement shall enter into force on the date the Parties notify each other in writing that necessary internal procedures have been completed.

2. This Agreement shall remain in force unless terminated by either Party upon six months' advance written notice to the other Party of its intention to terminate this Agreement.

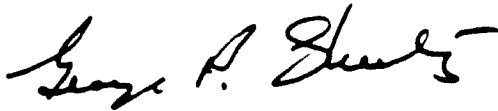
3. Termination of this Agreement shall not affect maritime search and rescue operations which have been undertaken hereunder and are not yet completed at the time of termination unless otherwise agreed by the Parties.

4. This Agreement may be amended by written agreement between the Parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this Agreement.

DONE at Moscow, in duplicate, this thirty-first day of May, 1988, in the English and Russian languages, each text being equally authentic.

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA:



GEORGE P. SHULTZ
Secretary of State

FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST
REPUBLICS:



EDUARD AMVROSIYEVICH SHEVARDNADZE
Minister of Foreign Affairs

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 31, 1988
Moscow

Dear Mr. Minister:

Referring to the negotiations which have culminated in the signing on this date of the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on Maritime Search and Rescue, I have the honor to confirm an understanding reached between the Parties as follows.

If, prior to the Parties' resolving their differences with respect to the maritime boundary, a question arises as to which Party has the primary responsibility for coordinating search and rescue operations under this Agreement, the Parties shall, as appropriate, consult with a view to resolving the question.

Sincerely yours,

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George P. Shultz

His Excellency
Edward A. Shevardnadze,
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics,
Moscow.

REPRODUCED AT GOVERNMENT EXPENSE